# CITY OF REDMOND TRAILS COMMISSION 🚓



# **MINUTES** — July 27, 2005 **Old Redmond Schoolhouse Community Center**

**COMMISSIONERS PRESENT**: Chairperson Gary Smith, Ken Bechmann, Peter McDonald, Julie Barnfather (arrived 7:20 p.m.)

**ABSENT:** Glenn Eades, Sue Chenault

<u>CITY STAFF</u>: Tim Cox, Manager of Parks Planning; Pam Maybee, Recording

Secretary

**AUDIENCE:** City staff guests Tom Barry and Roger Dane

Note: Bold/italic text denotes Staff and Commissioner follow-up resulting from this meeting.

# **AGENDA**

#### I. **CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Gary Smith called to order the regular meeting of the Redmond Trails Commission (RTC) at 7:05 p.m. at the Old Redmond Schoolhouse Community Center (ORSCC).

#### II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion for approval of June 29, 2005 RTC minutes as submitted by:

Commissioner Barnfather

Second by: Commissioner Bechmann

Motion carried: Unanimous 4-0

## ITEMS FROM THE AUDIENCE

None

# IV. ITEMS OF INTEREST/HANDOUTS

# A. Blue Bikes Program (e-mail)

Handout. Program promotes the Sammamish River Trail with free use of 150 bikes.

# B. York Bridge (News Release)

## Handout:

- Current bridge has been removed.
- John Florio and Steve Gibbs are the City's projects managers.
- Bike detour to the east on asphalt.

Cox will add verbiage in the news release of the in- and out-take points for kayaks.

# C. Walk Across Washington (WRPA Article)

Handout. The walk does not go through Redmond.

# D. BNSF Corridor (PSRC Article)

Handout. Cox reported that the exclusive right of negotiations with King County ends at the end of August. Should King County not show progress or continue exclusivity, the City could deem it a worthy project for TEA-21 grant monies.

# E. East Lake Sammamish Trail Appreciation Ceremony

Handout. Ground-breaking ceremony for the Sammamish segment of the trail. The walk is from Marymoor Park to Sammamish city limits.

# V. DISCUSSION AND REPORTS

# A. Redmond 74 Land Acquisition

Tom Barry, Engineering Manager, and Roger Dane, Stream Enhancement Planner—both with the Natural Resources Division of Public Works—presented land acquisition opportunity in the Redmond 74 development. Background:

 North and south lots are 10 acres each, plus 4 acres of a water quality facility, equaling 24 acres of the valley floor.

- Natural Resources Department has received a grant of \$275,000 for this project, specifically, to do improvements to the corridor associated with these parcels.
- Redmond 74 will develop 111 properties in the upper portion.
- Design concept drawing showed an off-channel bay (or wetland area) and trail access.
- Designated and favorably set up for passive recreation.
- Opportunities: Sammamish River Trail enhancement, water linkage/access, onsite trail amenities, educational opportunities, etc.
- Feasibility studies have not been done; challenges exist for the water feature, which could be a wetland area instead.
- Developer will address ingress/egress; traffic will come from trail, bridge, or development's main roads, providing modest parallel parking.

Barry announced that the two buildable parcels are scheduled to be sold in 2006. The top five park bond initiative priorities important to the community as noted in the survey are met in this project:

- (1) Protecting water quality, rivers and streams
- (2) Protecting land around rivers and streams
- (3) Protecting wildlife habitat
- (4) Preserving natural areas
- (5) Preservation of open space

A 2002 appraisal was done based on lands of similar features, but not in an urban area—thus a lack of comparables. Both lots came in at \$700,000; adding inflation, it totaled \$1 million for both parcels in 2002. Presently, it could be estimated to be worth at least one to two million dollars per parcel.

# Funding options:

- The \$275K grant can be applied.
- The project can receive grants and other financial leverages.
- Can be used for future mitigation for downtown transportation projects.
- Parks and Recreation and Public Works have committed some funding.
- TDRs, grant funding, and partnering are additional opportunities for purchase.
- Could sell one parcel to the City and sell the other to an entrepreneurial activity, e.g., a Bed and Breakfast, and therefore, remain within the public domain, incorporating easements and rights for uses.

The park bond could be one of the pieces for funding.

#### Additional information:

- Approval from City Council is needed to continue negotiations with developer, followed by incremental conditions.
- City's executive staff are supportive of the purchase and project.
- In the future, could acquire portion of Valley Estates (property to the north) to continue the extension of the open space plan.
- If don't negotiate now, can return the grant money and apply for it again later (could acquire even more money in the future).
- Owner wants to see significant progress and a realistic package put together by the City.

Barry noted the developer may be interested in some TRD areas within the City, but cannot discuss until Council approves the negotiations.

Outline of strategy for the project:

- Present to Park Board next week
- Present to Parks and Human Services Committee at end of August
- Hold an executive session with City Council (with letter of support from RTC)

Commissioners highly favored the concept and offered support to enter into negotiations toward investigating the options.

Cox confirmed that Parks and Recreation's funding would not jeopardize the BECT project; rather, this project would entreat partnerships, grants, etc. It is a Public Works/Natural Resources project, with support from Parks Department, Park Board, and RTC.

Motion for approval that RTC provide enthusiastic support in the form of a letter signed by the Chair for purchase of these two parcels—the valley floor proposed plats as part of Redmond 74—based on the design provided by: Commissioner Barnfather

Second by: Commissioner Bechmann

Motion carried: 4-0 unanimous

Bechmann asked Barry to provide more understanding of the water feature, i.e., how it would be feasible, especially in the dry season.

Cox will work with Natural Resources to craft the letter and forward it to Smith for review.

# **B. Neighborhood Connections**

Commissioners reviewed the number of neighborhood connections as approved at last meeting(s) by RTC and PBAC (Pedestrian Bicycle Advisory Committee):

- Jointly approved (6)
- RTC approved (18)
- PBAC approved (18)

## Cox reported:

- City Council wants a list of 10 neighborhood connections that could be done by 2006.
- Parks list does not involve large ticketed items, rather, short-term projects; whereas, Public Works is looking at bigger, long-term projects to later be put on the TIP possibly funded with grants.
- Could come up with five choices each with PBAC, or work independently.
- Parks' CIP budget has not funded/built many trails outside the City, except the BECT; staff wants to show the credibility to move toward trail connections, and thereby warrant receipt of funding.
- Schedule the October 25 study session with City Council to present the 10 connections with discussion.

Following review of the RTC list, Commissioners removed projects that would already happen absent of RTC approval, and narrowed choices to ten:

#### **Education Hill and North Redmond:**

- 1) Trail from NE 116<sup>th</sup> St. north to NE 124<sup>th</sup> Street
- 2) Valley View Trail
- 3) Redmond 74 trail linkages

# Willows / Rose Hill Neighborhood:

- 4) Connect PSE Trail west to 132<sup>nd</sup> Ave NE (Study)
- 5) PSE Trail connection south to Willows Creek Park on 142<sup>nd</sup>

# **Grass Lawn Neighborhood:**

6) Bridle Crest Trail improvements (investigating)

# **Bear Creek Neighborhood:**

7) Farrel-McWhirter to Watershed Preserve on PSE trail

## **SE Redmond Neighborhood:**

8) Trail connection to Red Brick Road

#### Downtown:

9) Trail at Bear Creek Park

#### Sammamish Vallev:

10) East Lake Sammamish Trail connection

# C. Sammamish Valley SWOT

Postponed to September meeting (SWOT process is behind one month).

# D. Joint Meeting with Bike/Ped Committee

**Staff will approach PBAC for a joint meeting date in August** (not PBAC's regular meeting in August or September). Commissioners concurred it would likely require a separate meeting (from the regular) to devote the proper time.

# E. Letter of Support for TEA-21 Projects

Letters of support were reviewed: (1) PSE trail enhancement SR 202 to Sammamish River Trail, and (2) Bear Creek Trail missing link. Cox noted that if one project was to become the City's TEA 21 project for this year, then the other signed letter would go on file for the future. Also, the letters would not be used if another project came forward, e.g., BNRR as the preferred choice for TEA-21.

Motion for approval to sign the two letters of support as presented, leaving to staff's discretion which one to submit by: Commissioner Barnfather

**Second by:** Commissioner Bechmann

Motion carried: 4-0 unanimous

# F. Trail Project Reports

- 1. Evans Creek Trail Phase I, Stage 2: Project delayed due to steel manufacturer who has delayed rolling of deck surfacing. Estimating the last week of August for completion.
- 2. Trail at Bear Creek Park: No report.
- 3. Bear Creek Trail Missing Link: Received \$1,000 for this trail.
- **4. East Lake Sammamish Trail:** No report.

# **G. RTC Vacant Position**

Bechmann and Smith will assist staff with the interview process of RTC and youth advocate applicants on 8/16/05 at 1:00 p.m.

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Staff noted it was determined that the interested applicant who lived in Duvall was too far removed from the planning area of Redmond to be considered for candidacy.

Commissioners reviewed applications and resumes submitted (handouts).

# VI. <u>ADJOURNMENT</u>

The meeting was adjourned by Chair Smith at 9:30 p.m.

Minutes prepared by Recording Secretary, Pam Maybee

Audiotapes of regular Trails Commission meetings are available at the Parks and Recreation Office at (425) 556-2311.

THE NEXT REDMOND TRAILS COMMISSION MEETING:
Wednesday, September 28, 2005
Old Redmond Schoolhouse Community Center
7:00 p.m.

# CITY OF REDMOND TRAILS COMMISSION 🖂



# July 27, 2005 Old Redmond Schoolhouse Community Center

# **Audience Present**

<u>Please note</u>: Information provided at this public meeting becomes part of the City's permanent record.

NAME	ADDRESS	PHONE
Roger Dane	City of Redmond	556-2815
Thomas Barry	City of Redmond	556-2870